

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Manatawny Manor and Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries for 30 years of exceptional long term care and service to the people of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
PETERSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Thomas Peters of Durango, Colorado. Thomas passed away after a long fight with kidney disease at the age of fifty-nine. He proudly served our country and worked hard to maintain his own business. As his family and community mourn his passing, I think it is appropriate to recognize his life and legacy before this body of Congress and this nation.

At the ripe age of ten, Thomas first began his long career as a Durango businessman. Preparing him to takeover, Thomas's father started grooming him as a young employee in the family business, Peterson Office Supply. In 1971, his father passed away and Thomas assumed control of the family business. Leaving his business legacy behind, Thomas's presence as a business leader and longstanding staple of the Durango community will be sorely missed.

A proud citizen, Thomas served our country with honor for twenty-three years as a member of the National Guard. He retired from service in 1988 as a First Sergeant. In addition to his service, he spent thirty-years as a committed member of the Elks Lodge. As a leader in the community, Thomas was a trustee for the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and recognize the life of Thomas Peterson today. The Durango community will remember Thomas for his big heart and willingness to give to others. As a loyal and trusting individual, he demonstrated the strengths of America's smaller communities. I would like to express my deepest regrets and extend my sympathy to the family and friends of Thomas Peterson.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVEN RUFFIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Steven Ruffin in recognition of his tireless efforts to strengthen the community through his work as a member of the New York City Police Department.

Steven Ruffin was born and raised in the Bedford Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn. He is the oldest of four children. His interests include jazz, Afro-centric art, sports and working with the community.

He was appointed to the New York City Police Department on January 21, 1985 and was assigned to the Neighborhood Stabilization Unit, where he performed foot patrol within the 73rd, 75th and the 81st precincts.

In January 1985, Officer Ruffin was assigned to the 79th precinct. He performed patrol duties there for ten years. Later, in 1995, he was assigned as the Explorer/Auxiliary Coordinator, making him responsible for the supervision of the Explorer and Auxiliary members.

For the past four years, Officer Ruffin's experience and expertise has resulted in improved community relations. He has accomplished this by developing a prosperous partnership between the community and the 79th precinct, which has been instrumental in closing the gap between the community and police. He encourages his fellow officers to become more involved and concerned with the neighborhood in the area they serve and protect.

Officer Ruffin has also successfully collaborated with local officials, neighborhood organizations, schools, and churches in Bedford Stuyvesant to strengthen the community. He has also played an active role in organizing youth programs, parades, demonstrations, rallies, and various events. For all of his contributions, Officer Ruffin has received numerous awards for his community service.

Mr. Speaker, Steven Ruffin has dedicated both his professional and personal life to strengthening the community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CHESTER GRAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Chester Gray of Cleveland, Ohio.

Chester Gray, born on April 1, 1912, in Cleveland, Ohio, was one of two sons born to Morgan J. Gray and Elandra Holt Gray. Morgan, a Pullman Porter, originally from London, Ontario, and Elandra, daughter of a Canadian Baptist minister, raised their sons in an "upper poor" but loving home. Throughout his life Chester valued advice he received from his mother, "Be yourself, and be somebody." He also shared his parent's belief in the efficacy of education.

After graduating from Cleveland's East High School, Chester wanted to attend Fisk University, however his father advised him to stay home. A friend took him to meet the Jesuits, and soon he was riding the streetcar to the college at West 30th Street. So began his lifetime association with his alma mater John Carroll University. Chester enjoyed sharing memories about John Carroll where he was one part of the trio of young black men who were the first men of color to attend the University.

Chester, "Chet" had a life filled with many interests. As a youngster he ice skated with his buddies at the old Elysium or played sandlot football. At John Carroll he played the French Horn and was a member of the university's first marching band. "Chet" dreamed of attending medical school after earning his bachelor in Philosophy, however money was short so, he ventured in other directions: He worked at the Cedar Branch YMCA, volunteered at Karamu House, joined the National

Youth Administration and before long arrived at the Ohio Bureau of Employment, a destination that was to direct his future as a prolific public servant and consummate community citizen.

Chester Gray was a brave man. In 1965 he was the lone Black man who was part of a three-man team of officials who traveled into the heart of Klu Klux Klan territory in Birmingham, Alabama. Their mission was to end job discrimination in the local steel mill. The officials endured insults, threats and possible physical harm, but they got their job done. They told the employers they'd have to follow minority guidelines mandated by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Thus began a new era in employment.

Reflecting on his years and training at John Carroll University "Chet" gave evidence of his quick humor. Describing sitting through the daily Mass conducted in Latin he said, "There was an equality of ignorance. None of us knew what the hell was going on." He also noted that the skills he learned in critical thinking and understanding people were tolls that served him throughout his life.

Perhaps one of the most profound life lessons Chester carried away from John Carroll was "The bedrock of the Jesuit philosophy of doing good for others. Do the best you can for yourself, but also do something to make life better." He spent his life practicing the philosophy and had Ninety-Two glorious years of taking small and giant steps to make life better for his community.

LET THE WORK I'VE DONE SPEAK FOR ME

May the work I've done speak for me. When I'm resting in my grave, there is nothing that can be said. May the work I've done, speak for me. May the life I've lived speak for me. May the service I gave speak for me. When I've done the best I can, and my friends don't understand, may the service I gave speak for me. The works I've done seemed so small. Sometimes they seemed like nothing at all. But when I stand before my God. I want to hear Him say "Well Done." May the work I've done speak for me.

National Youth Administration, youth supervisor and state supervisor of recreation and community affairs

Chief of Minority Group Services, Ohio Bureau of Employment Service

American Red Cross, Military Welfare Branch

Deputy director of operations, Ohio Civil Rights Commission

Staff Director of Equal Employment Opportunity Program for Cleveland district contact management office of U.S. Air Force Director, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for Ohio

Elected to John Carroll University board of trustees

Consultant, Cleveland Board of Education Interim executive director for Cuyahoga

Metropolitan Housing Authority

Appointed to John Carroll University board of regents

Inspiration and Consultant for "Forever JCU", the first ever alumni of color event

Former Board member Fairhill Center for Aging

Guest Lecturer: Michigan State University, Western Reserve University and numerous public and private organizations

Member and Former Trustee, Mt. Zion Congregational Church

Member of: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Tau Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and past President of Cleveland City Club

"Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time"

—MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN.